

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

March 2011 Edition

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Welcome!

It's a pleasure to connect with my constituents and highlight informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

For your convenience, I have included at the end of this edition

opportunities on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation on County Boards.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

Howard County Council Seeks to Fill Vacant Positions!

Do you enjoy working with the public? The Howard County Council is seeking to fill two vacant positions: Administrative Support Technician II and Administrative Assistance – County Council.

For a position summary, preferred education/experience requirements, salary ranges and a direct link to apply for these positions, visit the Council's website at www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_HomePage.htm.

REMINDER TO PARENTS: Kindergarten and New First Grader Registration Ends March 5th!

Howard County Public School System announces early registration has begun for kindergarten and new first grade students. To register, children must be five years old by September 2, 2011. First grade students must have completed a kindergarten program or have an approved waiver.

To locate the school you child will attend, visit <http://www.hcpss.org/sl/sysbush0.php>. For more information, contact the Office of Elementary Administration at 410-313-6609.

Columbia Festival of the Arts – 2011 Season Design Contest!

The Columbia Festival of the Arts invites K-12 students to enter its 2011 Season Design Contest. The winning entry will be featured on the cover of the season brochure and program magazine. Additionally, the winner will receive \$500! Deadline submission is **Friday, March 4, 2011**.

For more information or to obtain an Entry Submission form, visit www.ColumbiaFestival.com. Click the "Participate" tab. Multiple entries will be accepted.

Commission on Aging Seeking Nominations for Annual Recognition Awards!

Do you know of an individual, organization or business that has made a positive impact on the lives of Howard County's older adults? If so, the Howard County Commission on Aging is accepting nominations for their annual awards program. There are several categories including individual leadership, civic engagement, excellence in the arts, leadership in education, outstanding youth volunteer, the Phyllis B. Madachy Legacy award, organization awards, caregiver friendly workplace and bench mark awards for businesses. Nominate someone today as the deadline of **Friday, March 4, 2011** is quickly approaching.

For more information, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/OA/CS_OfficeAging.htm.

Congressman Cummings to Host Town Hall Meeting!

Many people in Maryland continue to suffer during difficult economic times. On **Saturday, March 5, 2011**, Congressman Elijah Cummings will host an interactive session entitled "Weathering the Storm in Tough Economic Times." It will be held from **9am-11am** at **Howard Community College (RCF-400), 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, MD**.

Citizens will learn about services offered by the State of Maryland and the federal government, and how to access them. Representatives from various federal, state, and local agencies will provide information about their resources and how people can access them.

For more information, contact **Hope Williams** at **410-685-9199**.

African Culture Café – Africa: East Meets West!

The Columbia Association, the Council of Elders of the Black Community of Howard County, and the African Art Museum of Maryland invite the community to participate in the Culture Café on **Sunday, March 6, 2011** from **2-4pm** at **The Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring in Columbia, MD** to share the culture of such African nations as Ghana, Liberia and Egypt.

This event is **FREE** and will offer an afternoon of music, educational displays, African fashions, camaraderie and light refreshments. For more information or to RSVP, please contact **Laura Smit**, Program Manager of CA's International Exchange & Multicultural Programs at **410-715-3162** or email Laura.Smit@ColumbiaAssociation.com.

Silas Craft Collegians at Hunan Manor!

The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invite you to the 12th annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. The dinner buffet will be served continuously on **Monday, March 7, 2011** from **5-8pm** at the **Hunan Manor Restaurant, 7091 Deepage Drive, Columbia, MD**.

Tickets are \$40 per person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales to the event. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the HCC Development Office at **443-518-1970** or visit www.howardcc.edu/specialevents.

Career Academy Shadow Days!

Students in grades 10-11 who are interested in Career Academies offered at the Applications and Research Lab (ARL) can shadow current students, take part in activities and meet the instructors during Shadow Days beginning **Wednesday, March 16, 2011** and running through **Thursday, March 24, 2011**.

Permission forms are available from your school counselor and are due by **Wednesday, March 9, 2011**. For more information, call **Tracey Fitzpatrick** at **410-313-1298**.

Leadership U Class of 2011 Applications!

Are you interested in making a difference? Become part of the Leadership U Class of 2011. Leadership U (LU) is an exciting leadership development, teambuilding and community service opportunity for high school students. The four-month program involves a week-long summer session of hands-on learning and interactive activities, completion of a team community service project and participation in "Shadow Day", where students spend a day with a business or community leader.

LU is for current high school sophomores with leadership potential, a desire to learn with others and with an interest for the community. Applications and information are available in the Guidance Office or at www.leadershiphc.org. Applications are due by **Friday, March 11, 2011**.

SPOTLIGHT ON HOWARD COUNTY!

I'd like to take a brief moment and acknowledge an outstanding individual whom recently I've had the privilege to present with an Honorary Resolution from the Howard County Council.

Richard "Dick" Story, retiring from the Economic Development Authority after many years of dedicated service.

Human Rights Commissioner Needed!

The Howard County Human Rights Commission is currently accepting applications for those interested in serving a five-year term as a Commissioner. The deadline for applications is **Friday, March 11, 2011 at 5pm**. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be a Howard County resident, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in human/civil rights and able to attend the Commission's meetings on the third Thursday of each month from 7-9pm.

Applicants must submit a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043. Approved candidates will be sent to the County Executive, who will then submit his recommendation to the County Council for confirmation.

Grow It & Eat It!

The Master Gardeners will present a wonderful presentation on how to prepare your soil and maintain a healthy garden. This event will be held on **Monday, March 14, 2011 at 7pm** located in the Stonehouse in Columbia, MD.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public. To register or for more information, call **410-730-8113** or email info@longreach.org.

FY12 Citizens' Budget Hearing!

County Executive Ulman will hold his second Citizens' Budget hearing for the FY2012 budget cycle on **Wednesday, March 16, 2011** beginning at **7:30pm** in the **Banneker Room, George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive** in Ellicott City, MD.

Citizens will be able to sign-up online beginning Thursday, March 3, 2011 to speak at the hearing by visiting www.howardcountymd.gov/DOA/BO_GiveTestimony.asp or may provide written testimony on this site as well. Citizens are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information and as such, subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Sign-up on the night of the hearing will begin at 6:30pm. Speakers will have an opportunity to sign-up individually.

Interpreters are available for the deaf or hearing impaired but must be requested at least seven days prior to the hearing. To schedule this service, please call the Department of Citizen Services at 410-313-6400 or use Relay 7-1-1 between 8am and 5pm. If you need additional accommodations, contact the Office of Public Information at **410-313-2022**.

"What's in the Fine Print – Your Home Purchase, Signing on the Line!"

As part three of a three part education series "Under One Roof: The Foundation of Economic Recovery & Homeownership", Howard County Housing provides residents with facts about the home buying process. On **Saturday, March 19, 2011** from **10am-12:30pm**, residents will have an opportunity to examine the legal aspects of the home buying process, including some common legal mistakes. The Civil Justice Network will review the importance of knowing what's in the fine print before signing any mortgage document or purchase contract.

This series is **FREE** and open to the public; however, to reserve your seat, an RSVP is requested by calling HC Housing at **410-313-3441**. For more information about rental and homeownership opportunities through HC Housing visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DH/DH_Homepage.html or call **410-313-6318**.

World Music Series!

Oakland Mills Music and Arts Committee will present the new "World Music Series" debut performance **Sunday, March, 20, 2011 from 5-7pm**. It will feature Kwame Ansah and Fritete Afrobeat, a fusion of Afrobeats with western instruments. For a sneak peak, visit www.fritete.com. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Order online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/141962.

Now Seeking Nominations for Excellence in Programs for Children!

Do you know people or programs that make a positive impact on the lives of our Howard County children? The Howard County Office of Children Services is now seeking nominations for this year's Excellence in Programs for Children. They will be recognized at the 12th annual "Celebrating Successes for Children" ceremony. This ceremony will salute those special individuals such as mentors, child care providers, Scout leaders, coaches, human service workers and volunteers. Plan to nominate an outstanding individual by **Wednesday, March 23, 2011**. Nominees do not have to be a resident of Howard County; however, program or business nominees must be located in Howard County.

For more information, call **410-313-1940** or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/children to obtain a nomination form.

Transportation Advocates Meeting!

The next meeting of Transportation Advocates is **Thursday, March 24, 2011** at the **Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keaton Way in Columbia, MD** beginning at **7:30am**. The group will discuss the redevelopment of the Route 1 Corridor. Representatives from the Department of Planning and Zoning, including Marsha McLaughlin and Dace Blaumanis, will provide information on this project including job possibilities, housing, impact on the County's General Plan and how the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board planning work programs and schedules impact evaluation of transit and highway projects needed for Route 1 redevelopment.

For more details, contact Sharonlee Vogel at sharonleevogel@gmail.com.

Celebration of the Arts in Howard County Gala!

This year's gala will mark the 30th Anniversary of the Howard County Arts Council and Howard County's signature event, the Celebration of the Arts in Howard County Gala will be held at its new location, the **Peter and Elizabeth Horowitz Visual and Performing Arts Center at Howard Community College!** ! Come celebrate with us on **Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 6-10pm** and enjoy the reception including culinary delights from area restaurants and caterers, bid on a fabulous new piece at the silent auction with work by local artists and enjoy performances throughout the Grand Hall and Art Lounge.

Tickets will become available for purchase in January 2011 so please continue to check the website for additional information at www.hocoarts.org or call **410-313-ARTS (2787)**.

Collision Avoidance Training!

Learn how to handle your car in any situation. Designed especially for new drivers who want more specialized experience on the road, Collision Avoidance Training teaches hands-on techniques for evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and more.

The cost of the course is \$95 and is open to licensed teens ages 16-19. Classes for 2011 will be held on the following dates: 3/18 & 3/19, 4/15 & 4/16, 5/20 & 5/21, 6/24 & 6/25. For more information, visit www.hcpd.org or call 410-313-3758.

"Community Sports Hall of Fame" Nominations Now Being Accepted!

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced that nomination forms are available for its 2011 "Community Sports Hall of Fame." This recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 1, 2011**.

Athletes, coaches, managers, league officials or event behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated. In addition, nominees must be either residents of Howard County or made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. Nomination forms are available online at www.hcrpsports.com or by calling 410-313-4711. In addition to the form, nominators must provide the Hall of Fame Committee with an essay, limited to four double-spaced, typed pages, demonstrating the nominee's community sports background. Nominations must be postmarked by the April 1 deadline and mailed or delivered to **Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame, 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia, MD**. The awards ceremony will take place on **Tuesday, October 18, 2011**.

Fifth Annual Money Matters Fair: A Fresh Start

Howard County Council Chairman Calvin Ball is partnering with the Howard Community College, the Howard County Library and makingCHANGE to host their fifth annual Money Matters Fair: A Fresh Start. This event will be held **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10am-1pm** at the **Howard County Library East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia, MD**.

This event is **FREE** and open to the public and will offer a variety of resources to residents and provide an opportunity to interact with experts who can assist in making sound financial decisions. For more details, contact **Kimberly Pruim at 410-313-2001**.

GreenFest 2011

GreenFest 2011 will be held on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia, MD**. The Bureau of Environmental Services will be offering a shredding opportunity for residents which will take place from 10am-2pm. In the spirit of reusing, bring your outgrown or old bikes, even if missing parts, to be fixed up and donated across the world. Spare bike parts, helmets, etc. are also welcomed. Lastly, Goodwill Industries, Inc. will be on site for easy drop offs. Bring your clothes, electronics, dishes, toys and games, etc. to be reused by others.

Other events include workshops with Master Gardeners, carbon footprint activities led by local Girl Scouts, reptile and amphibian search, biking workshops, tree planting, garlic mustard pull and much more! For more information, visit GreenFest online at www.hcgreenfest.org.

BB&T Presents Chocolate Ball to Celebrate 50th Anniversary of The Arc

BB&T will present Chocolate Ball 2011 "Golden Opportunities" in celebration of The Arc of Howard County's 50th anniversary on **Saturday, April 2, 2011 from 7pm-midnight** at the **Kossiakoff Center, John Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory**. The black-tie-preferred event is expected to be a sell-out so get your tickets soon! For more information, contact Kathy Swanson, Director of Resource Development at kswanson@archoward.org or call 410-730-0638 x306.

Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair!

The Come Home to Howard County Housing Fair will be held **Saturday, April 9, 2011**. The location and time of this event has yet to be scheduled so please mark your calendars to save the date and visit www.comehometohowardcounty.org for updated information or call **410-313-6320**.

Simply Fierce Fashion Show

Howard County teens are invited to participate in this inaugural event to be held on **Saturday, April 9, 2011** from **2-4pm** at **The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place #2 in Columbia, MD**. It will showcase local fashion and/or jewelry designer's products and their own unique style. Any Howard County teen aged 11-17 is eligible to participate; no prior experience necessary.

Interested models and fashion/jewelry designers are asked to contact **Shawnte Berry at 410-313-4704** or sberry@howardcountymd.gov.

2011 Rebuilding Day!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is now accepting homeowner applications for its' 2011 Rebuilding Day on **Saturday, April 30, 2011**. Volunteers deliver **FREE** services on National Rebuilding Day using donated materials and supplies to ensure a warm, safe and dry home for low income homeowners, families, individuals with disabilities, the elderly, and veterans in Howard County.

For more information or an application, call **410-381-3338**, email info@rebuildingtogetherhc.org or visit www.rebuildingtogetherhc.org.

Earth Day Celebration!

Come celebrate Earth Day with Howard County by putting down some roots and planting a tree. On **Saturday, April 30, 2011**, bring your family and/or friends to participate in a tree planting and other environmentally friendly projects at one of Howard County's many parks. Be sure to bring a shovel and work gloves.

For additional information or to sign-up for a park site, call 410-313-4624.

5K Run for the Homeless!

Council Chairman Calvin Ball and Mid-Maryland Baptist Association have joined forces to sponsor a 5K Run to benefit the Route 1 Day Center, a Grassroots 501(c)3 organization serving homeless families in Howard County. The Center is an invaluable resources to individuals and families in need and provide hot meals, clean clothes, camping items, referral opportunities, basic preventative medical care and crisis intervention to approximately 200 people every month.

The "Hope for the Homeless" 5K run will be held **Saturday, May 7, 2011** beginning at **9am** at Rockburn Park in Ellicott City, MD. Advance registration fees are \$20 per runner and after April 1, 2011, registration fees will increase to \$25 per runner. For more information, registration forms or for donation opportunities, visit www.hopeforhomeless5K.com.

Wine in the Woods!

On Saturday, May 21 through Sunday, May 22, 2011, join attendees across the state for the 19th consecutive Wine in the Woods festival. Held in Symphony Woods, adjacent to Merriweather Post Pavilion, attendees will have the opportunity to sample from over 38 of Maryland's finest wineries, sharpen their palate by attending wine education seminars and revel in continuous live entertainment.

There will be an abundance of food to purchase and exceptional works of art and specialty crafts to check out. You must be 21 to drink. Tickets for those 21 and above are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the gate. Those ages 3-20 are \$5. Online ticket sales begin Thursday, March 3, 2011 and require an approved online account. Online advance purchase ends Wednesday, May 11, 2011. Tickets can also be purchased in person from May 12-20 at the Department of Recreation and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville and the Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way in Columbia, MD.

To learn more about the Department's designated driver program, call 410-313-4700. Designated Driver tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the gate. The event will be held rain or shine. For more information, visit www.wineinthewoods.com.

SHA Pilot Lighting Project on MD Route 100 in Howard County to Reduce Energy Consumption!

The State Highway Administration has initiated a pilot lighting reduction project on MD Route 100 in Howard County in the interest of reducing energy consumption while maintaining the safety of the roadway. Route 100 was selected as one of two pilot projects to reduce the number of lighting fixtures that are lit without compromising the safety of the traveling public. Route 100 was selected as a roadway that SHA felt will have sufficient lighting after it de-energizes the approximately 75 light poles in the corridor as part of the pilot.

The poles that have been selected to be turned off are marked with fluorescent green bands of tape around the lower section of the light pole and the work to disconnect the power from these fixtures will be performed within a month. If the pilot proves to be successful, we will physically remove the actual light poles and store them in inventory to replace existing light poles that are damaged in the future.

If you have any questions, would like additional information or believe the light reduction has caused sight distance issues, please contact **David Coyne, District Engineer** at 301-624-8102 or email dcoyne@sha.state.md.us.

Howard County Retains AAA-Bond Rating!

For the 14th consecutive year, Howard County has received a Triple-A credit rating from all three bond rating agencies – Fitch Ratings, Standard & Poor's and Moody's Investor Services. Of the more than 3,000 counties in the United States, fewer than 30 receive a Triple-A rating from these agencies. Council Chairman Ball was delighted to join County Executive Ulman and local representatives to discuss the County's diverse tax base, financial policies, debt burden and long-range plans for continued fiscal health, economic strengths and overall quality of life.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register online at www.commuterconnections.org or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

Alzheimer's Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer's Early-Stage Social Club began in **January 2011**. Meetings will be held from 9:00am-1:00pm Wednesdays and Fridays and Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer's association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

The database is FREE of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at www.bbimatchup.com and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

Not a business owner but still interested in what's going on relating to BRAC? Join us for our Update Meetings typically held the **4th Wednesday of each month** from **3:30pm to 4:30pm, Howard County Gateway Office Building, Suite 500**. For specific dates, please call **Kent Menser** at **410-313-6521** or email kmenser@howardcountymd.gov. These meetings are **FREE** and open to the public; however, seating is limited so please plan to arrive early.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at **410-313-6376** or email rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov.

Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call **410-730-2273** or email chayakaplan@verizon.net

Deer Management Program for 2010-2011 Season!

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunt will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows:

Alpha Ridge Park:	
Sharpshooting	March 14 (4:30pm to Midnight)
Autumn View Subdivision:	
Sharpshooting	March 10
Gray Rock Open Space Lot:	
Sharpshooting	March 7
Worthington Park:	
Sharpshooting	March 10

Newest Feature for Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

This week, a new web feature was unveiled on Maryland's Workforce Exchange. The new feature uses web "spidering technology" which collects and combines every job search website, every employer website, and every job posting in Maryland and creates a real-time, web-based, one-stop shop for Maryland job seekers.

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwe.dllr.state.md.us/default.asp?SessionUID=a>

March Economic Indicators Released for Howard County!

The Howard County Government and the Howard County Chamber of Commerce recently released a joint publication describing economic indicators for Howard County and surrounding areas. This information is able to provide advance warning of possible shifts in the local economy that may be helpful in the evaluation of current and future government policies and private sector business decisions.

To view this report, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DOA/DOApdfs/March_2011.pdf.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379

Youth Howard County www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, visit www.co.ho.md.us/DPW/docs/recycling_chart_web.pdf or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or visit www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Environmental_Homepage.htm.

At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email tjmallo@verizon.net.

RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For a list of providers, visit <http://www.co.ho.md.us/health/docs/urgentcarecenterslist5-2010.pdf>. For additional information, contact our Health Department online at http://www.co.ho.md.us/Health/HealthMain/Health_HomePage.htm or call 410-313-6300.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

The Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large.

Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website

www.howardcountysafety.org. I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Whether it's volunteering for an organization or coming out to provide feedback to the County Council, I am honored to be part of a County in which our residents care so much about our communities.

Active involvement is the first step in making positive change in Howard County. At this time, several of our Howard County Board and Commissions still have vacancies. Members are a vital link between our citizens and the officials who represent them and it's so important that we fill these positions so that they may be as effective as possible.

Please visit our website online at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_boards_vacancies.htm for a list of possible vacancies including any special requirements they may have as well as instructions on how to apply.

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money. In addition to the information below, I encourage residents to visit our Howard County Government's website at www.co.ho.md.us/servicesresidents_financialassistance.htm. On this site, you will find resources for a variety of assistance including but not limited to child care, food, energy, water and housing.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Senior Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/SeniorCreditApp.pdf

Homeowners Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/HTC-60.pdf

Homestead Tax Credit: www.dat.state.md.us

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Daycare.pdf

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/Emergencyworker.pdf

Disabled Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker:

www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/DisabledPoliceRescueWorker.pdf

Community Associations Tax Credit: www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDOCS/CommAssoc.pdf

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Auditor_FraudAlertForm.asp. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous by leaving blank those fields requesting personal information. You should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To Schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard county Police Department and the community designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

We Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting. http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

Dr. Calvin Ball
Howard County Council
District 2
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

cball@howardcountymd.gov

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

"At times, we ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop."

Mother Teresa